

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner, comprising:
- 5 a housing defining at least one vent; and
a self-contained ion generator, disposed within said housing;
said ion generator producing ionized air that flows electrostatically from said vent.
- 10 2. The transporter-conditioner of claim 1, wherein said ion generator includes:
a high voltage generator outputting a signal whose duty cycle may be varied from about 10% to about 100%;
an electrode assembly comprising a first electrode
15 array effectively coupled to a first output port of said generator, and a second electrode array effectively coupled to a second output port of said generator, wherein one said output port may be at a same potential as ambient air;
- 20 wherein particulate matter in ambient air is electrostatically attracted to said second electrode array, and wherein said ion generator further creates ozone that flows electrostatically from said vent.
- 25 3. The transporter-conditioner of claim 2, wherein said high voltage generator has a characteristic selected from a group consisting of (a) said high voltage generator provides a first potential measurable relative to ground to said first electrode array and provides a
30 second potential measurable relative to ground to said second electrode array, and (b) said high voltage generator provides a first positive potential measurable relative to ground to said first electrode array and provides a second negative potential measurable relative
35 to ground to said second electrode array.

4. The transporter-conditioner of claim 2,
wherein:

said first electrode array includes at least one
electrode selected from a group consisting of (i) an
5 electrically conductive tapered pin-shaped electrode, and
(ii) a portion of conductive material having a end
defining a plurality of projecting conductive fibers; and

said second electrode array includes an electrically
conductive ring-shaped electrode defining a central
10 through opening, said second electrode disposed coaxial
with and in a downstream direction from an emitting end
of an electrode in said first electrode array.

5. The transporter-conditioner of claim 4, wherein
15 said first electrode array includes at least one said
pin-shaped electrode, and said second electrode array has
at least one characteristic selected from a group
consisting of (i) said ring-shaped electrode defines in
cross-section a tapered region terminating towards said
20 central through opening, (ii) said ring-shaped electrode
defines in cross-section a rounded region terminating
towards said central through opening, (c) said ring-
shaped electrode defines in cross-section a rounded
profile terminating in said through opening, (d) a ratio
25 of effective radius of said ring-shaped electrode to
effective radius of said pin-shaped electrode exceeds
about 15:1, (e) said pin-shaped electrode includes
tungsten, (f) said pin-shaped electrode includes
stainless steel, (g) said pin-shaped electrode includes
30 projecting fibers of carbon, and (h) said ring-shaped
electrode includes stainless steel.

5. The transporter-conditioner of claim 2, wherein:
said first electrode array includes at least one
35 metal wire electrode; and
said second electrode array includes at least two
electrically conductive electrodes that in cross-section

define a "U"-shape having a bulbous nose region and first and second trailing edge regions;

the "U"-shaped electrodes being disposed such that said bulbous nose regions facing said metal wire electrode and are equidistant therefrom.

6. The transporter-conditioner of claim 5, wherein an electrode in said second electrode array has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) a portion of one trailing edge region is longer than a remaining trailing edge region on said electrode, (ii) said trailing edge region defines at least one pointed projection facing downstream, and (iii) a ratio of effective radius of an electrode in said second electrode array to effective radius of said metal wire electrode exceeds about 15:1.

7. The transporter-conditioner of hair brush of claim 2, wherein:
said first electrode array includes at least one metal wire electrode; and
said second electrode array includes at least two electrically conductive electrodes that in cross-section define an "L"-shape having a curved nose region;
the "L"-shaped electrodes being disposed such that said curved nose regions face said metal wire electrode and are equidistant therefrom.

8. The transporter-conditioner of claim 2, wherein:
said first electrode array includes at least one metal wire electrode; and
said second electrode array includes at least two rod-like electrically conductive electrodes;
the rod-like electrodes being disposed such that said curved nose regions face said metal wire electrode and are equidistant therefrom.

9. The transporter-conditioner of claim 8, wherein a ratio of radius of one of said rod-like electrodes to radius of said wire electrode exceeds about 15:1.

5 10. The transporter-conditioner of claim 2, further including a bias electrode for determining net polarity of ions generated by said transporter-conditioner.

10 11. An electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner, comprising:

a housing defining at least one vent; and

a self-contained ozone generator, disposed within said housing;

15 said ozone generator producing ozone that flows electrostatically from said vent to condition ambient air.

20 12. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner of claim 11, wherein said ozone generator includes an ion generator comprising:

a high voltage generator outputting a signal whose duty cycle may be varied from about 10% to about 100%;

25 an electrode assembly comprising a first electrode array effectively coupled to a first output port of said generator, and a second electrode array effectively coupled to a second output port of said generator, wherein one said port may be at a same potential as ambient air;

30 said ion generator further creating ozone that flows electrostatically from said vent.

13. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner of claim 12, wherein:

35 said first electrode array includes at least one electrode selected from a group consisting of (i) an electrically conductive tapered pin-shaped electrode, and

(ii) a portion of conductive material having a end
defining a plurality of projecting conductive fibers; and
said second electrode array includes an electrically
conductive ring-shaped electrode defining a central
5 through opening, said second electrode disposed coaxial
with and in a downstream direction from an emitting end
of an electrode in said first electrode array.

10 14. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner
of claim 13, wherein said first electrode array includes
at least one said pin-shaped electrode, and said second
electrode array has at least one characteristic selected
from a group consisting of (i) said ring-shaped electrode
15 defines in cross-section a tapered region terminating
towards said central through opening, (ii) said ring-
shaped electrode defines in cross-section a rounded
region terminating towards said central through opening,
(c) said ring-shaped electrode defines in cross-section a
rounded profile terminating in said through opening, (d)
20 a ratio of effective radius of said ring-shaped electrode
to effective radius of said pin-shaped electrode exceeds
about 15:1, (e) said pin-shaped electrode includes
tungsten, (f) said pin-shaped electrode includes
stainless steel, (g) said pin-shaped electrode includes
25 projecting fibers of carbon, and (h) said ring-shaped
electrode includes stainless steel.

15. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner
of claim 12, wherein:
30 said first electrode array includes at least one
metal wire electrode; and
said second electrode array includes at least two
electrically conductive electrodes that in cross-section
define a "U"-shape having a bulbous nose region and first
35 and second trailing edge regions;

the "U"-shaped electrodes being disposed such that said bulbous nose regions facing said metal wire electrode and are equidistant therefrom.

5 16. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner of claim 12, wherein an electrode in said second electrode array has at least one characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) a portion of one trailing edge region is longer than a remaining trailing edge
10 region on said electrode, (ii) said trailing edge region defines at least one pointed projection facing downstream, and (iii) a ratio of effective radius of an electrode in said second electrode array to effective radius of said metal wire electrode exceeds about 15:1.

15 17. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner of claim 12, wherein:

 said first electrode array includes at least one metal wire electrode; and

20 said second electrode array includes at least two electrically conductive electrodes that in cross-section define an "L"-shape having a curved nose region;

 the "L"-shaped electrodes being disposed such that said curved nose regions face said metal wire electrode
25 and are equidistant therefrom.

 18. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner of claim 12, wherein:

30 said first electrode array includes at least one metal wire electrode; and

 said second electrode array includes at least two rod-like electrically conductive electrodes;

 the rod-like electrodes being disposed such that said curved nose regions face said metal wire electrode
35 and are equidistant therefrom.

19. The electro-kinetic air transporter-conditioner of claim 18, wherein a ratio of radius of one of said rod-like electrodes to radius of said wire electrode exceeds about 15:1.

5

20. A method of electro-kinetically providing a flow of cleaned air containing ions and ozone, the method comprising:

(a) providing a housing that includes an ion generator having an electrode assembly comprising a first electrode array and a second electrode array; and

(b) disposing within said housing a high voltage generator having a first output port electrically coupled to said first electrode array, and having a second output port electrically coupled to said second electrode array, wherein one said port may be at a potential of ambient air;

wherein at least some ambient air is ionized and electrostatically moved through said housing, said ionized air including ozone.

21. The method of claim 21, wherein:

said first electrode array includes at least one metal wire electrode; and

said second electrode array includes at least two electrically conductive electrodes that in cross-section define a "U"-shape having a bulbous nose region and first and second trailing edge regions;

the "U"-shaped electrodes being disposed such that said bulbous nose regions facing said metal wire electrode and are equidistant therefrom.

22. The method of claim 21, further including a bias electrode, coupled to said second electrode array so as to control charge of ions output from said housing.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein:

said first electrode array includes an electrically conductive tapered pin-shaped electrode;

said second electrode array includes an electrically conductive ring-shaped electrode defining a central through opening and being electrically coupled to a second output port of said generator, said second electrode being disposed coaxial with and in a downstream direction from a tapered end of said tapered pin-shaped electrode.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein:

said first electrode array includes at least one metal wire electrode; and

said second electrode array includes at least two electrically conductive rod-like electrodes; said rod-like electrodes being equidistant from said metal wire electrode.

20

25

30

35